details of sugar cane availability position in the proposed factory area.

Sd/-
(P.K.S. Iyer)
Director

New Delhi, 2-1-1987.

F.NO. 10/133/86-L.P.

Press Information Bureau is requested kindly to give wide publicity to the above Press Note.

Press Information Bureau,
Shastri Bhavan,
New Delhi.

Special thrust programmes for increasing the production of foodgrains,oilseeds and pulses

*329. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1288 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th August, 1988 and state:

(a) the names and the dates of commencement of the Special Thrust Programmes of Government for increasing the production of foodgrains, oilseeds and pulses and the States covered by the said Programme;

(b) the results of each such Programme in each of the last three years and the current year; and

(c) whether any other similar programmes are being formulated?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) and (b) The following Special Thrust Programmes for increasing the production of cereal grains pulses and oilseeds are in operation:—

1. *Special Rice Production Programme (SRPP)*

This programme was launched in 1985-86 in the States of Assam, Bihar, eastern Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, eastern U.P. and West Bengal. The average annual production of rice in 6 eastern States has increased to 332.1 lakh tonnes during the triennium ending 1987-88 as compared to 282.5 lakh tonnes during the triennium ending 1984-85. The rice production in the SRPP States during 1988-89 is expected to be very good.

2. *Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP)*

This Programme was launched from Kharif 1988-89. The crops included are rice, wheat, maize, gram and arhar. Special Foodgrains Production Programmes are in operation in the 14 selected States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, M.P., Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, U.P. and West Bengal. Our of these 14 States SFPP—Rice covers all the States except Rajasthan. SFPP—Wheat covers States of Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and U.P. SFPP—Maize covers Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and U.P. SFPP—Gram covers Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and U.P. and SFPP—Arhar covers Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and U.P.

Estimated Production of foodgrains in 1988-89 would exceed the targeted level of 166.6 million tonnes.

3. *Oilseeds Production Thrust Project (OPTP)*

This Programme was launched in 1987-88 in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, J & K, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, U.P. and West Bengal.

As a result of effective implementaton of OPTP, the production of oilseeds durng 1987-88 increased to 123.8 lakh tonnes despite worst drought as against 112.7 lakh tonnes production during 1986-87. The productivity also increased from 605 kg/ha in 1986-87 to 619 kg/ha in 1987-88. Area coverage increased to

200.0 lakh ha from 186.3 lakh ha during this period. During the current year the production of oilseeds are likely to reach a record level, as a result of various measures taken by the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

Subsidy to fertilizer industry

*330. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that nearly Rs. 3000 crores are given as subsidy to fertilizer sector;

(b) whether Government are aware that this subsidy helps only industry and big farmers; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking to reduce the subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The principle underlying the Retention Price and Subsidy Scheme is to protect the interest of farmers by making available fertilizers at uniform notified prices which they can afford and at the same time to ensure reasonable return on investment to the manufacturers and thus facilitate the growth of fertiliser industry.

With a view to reducing subsidy on indigenous fertilisers, differential levels of capacity utilisation and longer economic life of plant and machinery have been assumed for fixing the retention prices for the fifth pricing period commencing from 1-4-1988.

Sale of additional items through the outlets of PDS

*331. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have urged the State Governments to explore the possibilities of selling additional items through the outlets of the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether the State of Madhya Pradesh have accepted the recommendation and have raised additional essential items for distribution in the fair price shops; and

(c) if so, what are the items that were so increased and whether the supplies of these items were also made available to the State Governments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government has informed that it distributes Jowar and Maiza depending on their availability The State Government procures these items on their own.

Collaboration in seed development

*332. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms and conditions laid down by Government for grant of technical/financial collaboration involving foreign equity participation as well as technical collaboration on royalty payment basis separately in seed development;

(b) whether approval of the Department of Bio-technology is required for such collaboation; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the authority which approves collaboration referred to above and the formalities required from Indian companies/firms for allowing such collaboration

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) The production of certified high yielding hybrid seeds and hybrids of plantlets developed through plants tissue culture has been recognised as a high technology area, and has been included in 1986, in the Appendix-I to Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for participation by MRTP/FERA companies. The usual norms and conditions laid down by